



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental News

DEQ holds 3rd annual Brownfields Workshop

BATON ROUGE - The Department of Environment Quality will hold its third annual Louisiana Brownfields Grantee Workshop, June 2-3 in Metairie.

The interactive workshop is aimed at assisting grant recipients that participate in the DEQ and Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Programs. The common goal of all parties is to return brownfields properties back into productive use.

Brownfields are identified as abandoned, idled or underused commercial or industrial properties. Redevelopment or reuse of these properties often does not occur because they are viewed as contaminated.

According to EPA, it is estimated in the United States that there are more than 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. Since its inception in 1995, the Brownfields Program has awarded 709 assessment grants totaling more than \$190 million, 189 revolving loan fund grants worth more than \$165 million and \$26.8 million for 150 cleanup grants. Louisiana was recently awarded more than \$1 million in grants from EPA.

In addition to the workshop that seeks innovative ways to address contaminated sites the agency offers brownfields funding opportunities at various times throughout the year. These funds promote the protection of public health and environment along with economic growth in the state. The agency is currently accepting applications for Targeted Brownfields Assessments which are intended to facilitate cleanup and reuse of qualifying brownfields properties in Louisiana. The deadline to apply is June 6.

The workshop is a partnership with the University of New Orleans Center for Brownfields Initiatives and EPA.

For more information on brownfields, visit the DEQ's website www.ldeq.org/brownfields or contact Roger Gingles, DEQ brownfields coordinator at 225-219-3192.